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China, Peoples Republic of

Oilseeds and Products

Oilseeds and Products Annual Report (Part 1)

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Report Highlights:

Oilseeds imports are forecast to reach record levels yet again as delayed import quotas for oil and reinstatement of the VAT on soymeal have limited imports of oil and meal. China's accession to the WTO may reverse this trend by allowing increased imports of vegetable oils. Soybean and rapeseed production are forecast to increase in MY 2000 as agricultural reforms lead to increased production of oilseeds.

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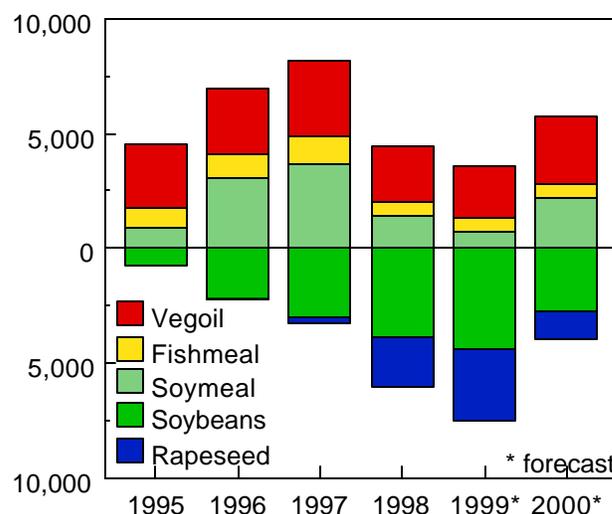
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Oilseeds and Products Situation and Outlook

General Summary

China's imports of oilseeds are forecast to grow in marketing year 1999 (MY 99), after reaching record levels in MY 1998. Trade could, however, be threatened by concerns over GMOs. China's accession to the WTO adds will have a strong effect on trade in oilseeds and products as a result of larger import quotas for vegetable oil. The timing of China's accession is uncertain, however. The forecasts in this report are based on the assumption that WTO implementation will prove complex, delaying the impact of accession well into MY 00. Whatever the timing, the large oil import quotas will lead to increased oil imports and lower domestic oil prices. This is forecast to result in lower demand for imported oilseeds, and consequently, lower oilseed crush. Lower crush will cause domestic oilseed supplies to fall, leading to greater demand for imported oilmeals. Short domestic supplies of oilmeal and growing demand from feedmills will also increase the value of meal relative to oil, affecting the type of oilseeds crushed. Meal imports are likely to favor soybean meal, which is becoming the standard protein supplement for livestock feed. (This is due in part to the efforts of the American Soybean Association, which conducts technical training in soy-based feed production and use.

China's Imports of Oilseeds and Oilseed Products, MY 1995 - 2000



Since 1997, trade has shifted away from oil and meal, and into oilseeds. This may change under WTO.

Total Oilseeds

Area planted to oilseeds fell in MY 99 as low prices caused area planted to soybeans and cotton to fall, more than offsetting increased plantings of rapeseed. As a result of this, and poor weather in Northeast China, production is estimated to remain flat, leaving room for increased imports. Delays in issuing oil import quotas and reinstatement of the 13 percent VAT on imported soymeal during 1999 have limited imports of oil and meal. As a result, excess demand for oil and meal must be met by crushing imported oilseeds. Reflecting this, MY 99 oilseeds imports are now forecast to reach record levels for the second year running. Planted area is expected to increase in MY 00 as China's agricultural reforms encourage farmers to plant more oilseeds. Oilseed imports during the last year have increasingly favored rapeseed, due to high domestic oil prices. (Rapeseed produces larger amounts of oil and less meal per ton than soybeans). This may change during the second half of MY 99, however, as improved prices for soybean meal and falling oil prices create more demand for soybeans. Imports of oilseeds are forecast to fall during MY 00, as increased oil quotas under WTO cause trade to shift toward oil and meal.

Soybeans - Falling prices in late 1998 caused a drop in area planted to soybeans during MY 99, particularly in Northeast China where most soybeans are grown. Poor weather added to the problem, as drought and early frost

struck Northeast China, leading to a drop in both yields and quality. Prices have improved somewhat in the past month, and the Chinese government has declared its intention to promote soybean production as an alternative to corn. As a result, MY 00 planted area is forecast to jump by 10 percent to 8.6 million hectares. Imports of soybeans are forecast to reach record levels in MY 99, then fall somewhat in MY 00 as WTO takes effect. Trade sources indicate that domestic soybean stocks have fallen, as high prices during September and October allowed grain bureaus to sell some of their surplus.

Rapeseed - Domestic production jumped during MY 99 as agricultural reforms led farmers to move acreage out of crops such as winter wheat and early rice, and into rapeseed. Yields also improved by comparison to 1998's snow-damaged crop. Current estimates indicate that planted area is up by nearly 12 percent, setting a new record of 7.8 million hectares. The current crop is in below-average condition, due to cold weather. High oil prices and low meal prices in early MY 99 have led crushers to import increasing quantities of rapeseed. Having reached a record 2.195 MMT in MY 98 (well over seven times the previous record), rapeseed imports are expected to climb even further to over 3 MMT in MY 99 before falling in MY 00 as WTO takes effect. The current situation is somewhat volatile, however, as domestic prices for oil have fallen, while meal prices have increased, leading to increased interest in soybeans.

Peanuts - Peanut production grew during MY 99, despite drought in the main producing province of Shandong. Planted area is forecast to continue growing despite low prices, as the return is favorable by comparison to other crops. Food use of peanuts is increasing while demand for peanut oil has fallen, leading to lower crush ratios. The large supply of peanuts and reduced demand for peanut oil has caused prices to fall, leading to increased exports of peanuts, particularly shelled peanuts and peanut butter.

Total Oilmeal

Production of oilmeal is forecast to remain constant during MY 99 as reduced domestic soybean crop and continued reductions in cotton production are offset by increased crush of imported seeds. MY 00 production is forecast to drop, as increased imports of oilmeal and oil lead to reduced demand for imported oilseeds. According to industry contacts, reinstatement of the VAT on imported soybean meal caused imports of oilmeal to fall sharply, and helped support domestic meal prices. Improved prospects for the livestock sector should help strengthen oilmeal demand during MY 99 and MY 00.

Soybean meal - As noted above, reinstatement of the VAT on imported soymeal caused a sharp drop in imports, allowing prices to recover from the lows experienced in 1998. Domestic soymeal prices rose sharply in late February. Trade sources indicate that a surge in meal imports is unlikely due to the VAT, though this development has kindled increased interest in imported soybeans. Soymeal imports are expected to increase in MY 00, as larger oil imports under the WTO lead to reduced crush, and greater need for imported meal.

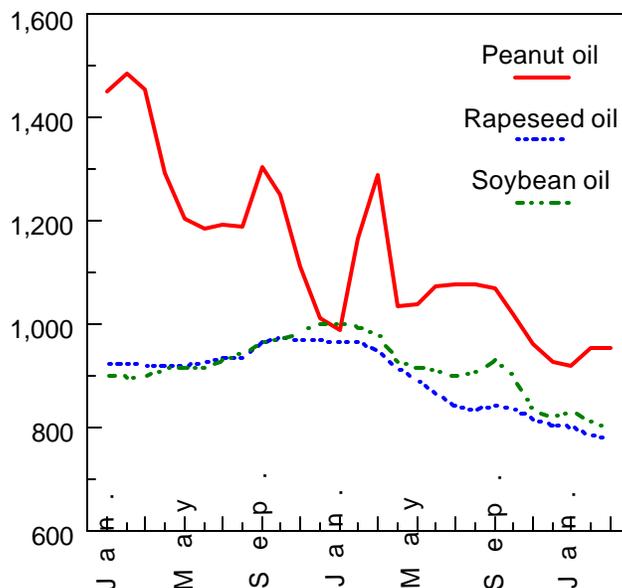
Rapeseed meal - Exports are forecast to hit record levels during MY 99, as massive crush of imported rapeseed has left China with a large supply of high-quality rapeseed meal. Feed use of domestic meal is also on the rise, as China continues to increase planting of low-erucic acid varieties. Continued high exports are unlikely in MY 00, as reduced crush of imported rapeseed reduces the amount of high-quality meal available in domestic markets.

Total Vegetable Oil

Oil production is expected to grow during MY 99 due to a large domestic rapeseed crop and imports of unprecedented quantities of foreign rapeseed and soybeans. Though overall crush rates are forecast to remain flat, increased crush of rapeseed will improve oil yields. In MY 00, crush of imported oilseeds will fall, as the increased oil quotas under WTO support the import of foreign oil. The reduced crush of imported oilseeds is forecast to lead to falling oil production, despite larger domestic soybean and rapeseed crops. During 1998 and the first part of 1999, vegetable oil prices remained high, due to the Chinese government's crackdown on smuggling and long delays in issuing oil import quotas. Since then, however, increased domestic oil production has caused prices to stagnate. Trade sources do not expect prices to improve during MY 99.

Production of peanut oil is forecast to slip slightly during MY 99, as increased production is not quite sufficient to offset a general slump in the peanut crushing industry. Many plants are reported to be operating well below capacity. Government sources indicate that food use of peanuts is on the rise. By contrast, sunflowerseed oil production is forecast to grow, as new crushing plants come on line. Sunflowerseed oil is being marketed to upper-middle class Chinese consumers as a health food product.

China Vegetable Oil Prices by Type
January 1998 - February 2000



Statistical Tables

Total Oilseeds, Meal and Oil

Table 1. Total Oilseeds: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:	China, Peoples Republic of					
Commodity:	Total Oilseeds					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Area Planted	24303	24419	23970	23968	0	25710
Area Harvested	23810	23870	23970	23968	0	25710
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	40147	41067	40710	41215	0	43855
MY Imports	6069	6071	5818	7516	0	3968
MY Imp. from U.S.	2017	2024	2307	2713	0	1615
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	46216	47138	46528	48731	0	47823
MY Exports	595	605	628	801	0	770
MY Exp. to the EC	100	103	112	156	0	156
Crush Dom. Consumption	32953	33856	32813	34349	0	32870
Food Use Dom. Consump.	9070	9071	9320	9835	0	10323
Feed Waste Dom.Consum.	3598	3606	3767	3746	0	3860
Total Dom. Consumption	45621	46533	45900	47930	0	47053
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	46216	47138	46528	48731	0	47823
Calendar Year Imports	11	4604	5	4802	0	0
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	10	1760	3	1573	0	0
Calendar Year Exports	10	484	11	605	0	1
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	2	0	5	0	0

Table 2. Total Meal: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Total Meal					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1996		10/1997		10/1998
Crush	32953	33856	32813	34349	0	32870
Extr. Rate	0.68221406 245	0.68112	0.6805534	0.6780983	ERR	0.6817767
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	22481	23060	22331	23292	0	22410
MY Imports	2021	2021	2271	1376	0	2825
MY Imp. from U.S.	217	217	245	110	0	325
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	24502	25081	24602	24668	0	25235
MY Exports	243	243	228	444	0	245
MY Exp. to the EC	0	27	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	6667	6360	7007	6378	0	6619
Food Use Dom. Consump.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Waste Dom.Consum.	17592	18478	17367	17766	0	18371
Total Dom. Consumption	24259	24838	24374	24144	0	24990
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	24502	25081	24602	24588	0	25235
Calendar Year Imports	473	4652	635	1172	0	655
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	39	911	36	148	0	60
Calendar Year Exports	56	81	94	307	0	43
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	7	0	0

Table 3. Total Oil: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Total Oil					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1996		10/1997		10/1998
Crush	32953	33856	32813	34349	0	32870
Extr. Rate	0.25958182 867	0.2593336	0.2617865	0.2710996	ERR	0.2730149
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	8554	8780	8590	9312	0	8974
MY Imports	2309	2498	2420	2246	0	2963
MY Imp. from U.S.	430	430	451	244	0	262
MY Imp. from the EC	89	84	90	60	0	75
TOTAL SUPPLY	10863	11278	11010	11558	0	11937
MY Exports	114	103	101	97	0	107
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	10749	11175	10909	11461	0	11830
Feed Waste Dom.Consum.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	10749	11175	10909	11461	0	11830
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	10863	11278	11010	11558	0	11937
Calendar Year Imports	1466	2915	1483	2238	0	1166
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	0	335	0	328	0	10
Calendar Year Exports	41	171	30	95	0	42
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Oilseeds

Table 4. Soybeans: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:	China, Peoples Republic of					
Commodity:	Soybean					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Area Planted	8346	8500	7700	7800	0	8600
Area Harvested	8000	8160	7700	7800	0	8600
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	15000	15000	14100	13900	0	15300
MY Imports	3858	3858	4000	4400	0	2750
MY Imp. from U.S.	2011	2011	2300	2700	0	1600
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	18858	18858	18100	18300	0	18050
MY Exports	187	188	200	180	0	250
MY Exp. to the EC	1	1	0	0	0	0
Crush Dom. Consumption	11701	11700	10870	10990	0	10560
Food Use Dom. Consump.	5770	5770	5830	5950	0	6020
Feed Waste Dom.Consum.	1200	1200	1200	1180	0	1220
Total Dom. Consumption	18671	18670	17900	18120	0	17800
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	18858	18858	18100	18300	0	18050
Calendar Year Imports		3189		3401		0
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.		1750		1562		0
Calendar Year Exports		170		200		0
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.		0		1		0

Table 5. Rapeseed: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:	China, Peoples Republic of					
Commodity:	Rapeseed					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Area Planted	6800	6530	7400	7000		7800
Area Harvested	6800	6530	7400	7000		7800
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0		0
Production	8400	8300	9750	9700		10500
MY Imports	2195	2195	1800	3100		1200
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	10595	10495	11550	12800	0	11700
MY Exports	1	1	0	0	0	0
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crush Dom. Consumption	9634	9633	10400	11670		10500
Food Use Dom. Consump.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	960	861	1150	1130		1200
Total Dom. Consumption	10594	10494	11550	12800	0	11700
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	10595	10495	11550	12800	0	11700
Calendar Year Imports		1400		1389		
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.		0		0		
Calendar Year Exports		1		0		
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 6. Peanuts: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:	China, Peoples Republic of					
Commodity:	Peanut					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Area Planted	4040	4040	4250	4280		4500
Area Harvested	4040	4040	4250	4280		4500
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0		0
Production	8617	8617	8800	8900		9315
MY Imports	4	4	4	2		2
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	8621	8621	8804	8902	0	9317
MY Exports	398	398	420	600		500
MY Exp. to the EC	96	96	110	150		150
Crush Dom. Consumption	4913	4913	4930	4800		5030
Food Use Dom. Consump.	2750	2750	2880	2928		3207
Feed Seed Waste Dm.Cn.	560	560	574	574		580
Total Dom. Consumption	8223	8223	8384	8302	0	8817
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	8621	8621	8804	8902	0	9317
Calendar Year Imports		4		0		
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.		0		0		
Calendar Year Exports		303		389		
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.		2		4		

Table 7. Cottonseed: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:	China, Peoples Republic of					
Commodity:	Cottonseed					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Area Planted (COTTON)	4397	4459	3880	3748	0	3560
Area Harvested (COTTON)	4250	4250	3880	3748	0	3560
Seed to Lint Ratio	623.75	554.4444	621.345	616.836	ERR	573.0887
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	7200	8100	6840	6890	0	6540
MY Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	7200	8100	6840	6890	0	6540
MY Exports	0	0	0	1	0	0
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crush Dom. Consumption	6372	7170	6062	6099	0	5790
Food Use Dom. Consump.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Seed Waste Dm.Cn.	828	930	778	790	0	750
Total Dom. Consumption	7200	8100	6840	6889	0	6540
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	7200	8100	6840	6890	0	6540
Calendar Year Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Year Exports	1	1	1	1	0	1
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8. Sunflowerseed: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:	China, Peoples Republic of					
Commodity:	Sunflowerseed					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Area Planted	720	890	740	1140		1250
Area Harvested	720	890	740	1140		1250
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	930	1050	1220	1825		2200
MY Imports	12	14	14	14		16
MY Imp. from U.S.	6	13	7	13		15
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	942	1064	1234	1839	0	2216
MY Exports	9	18	8	20		20
MY Exp. to the EC	3	6	2	6		6
Crush Dom. Consumption	333	440	551	790		990
Food Use Dom. Consump.	550	551	610	957		1096
Feed Waste Dom.Consum.	50	55	65	72		110
Total Dom. Consumption	933	1046	1226	1819	0	2196
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	942	1064	1234	1839	0	2216
Calendar Year Imports	11	11	5	12		
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	10	10	3	11		
Calendar Year Exports	9	9	10	15		
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Meal

Table 9. Soybean Meal: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Soybean Meal					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	11701	11700	10870	10990	0	10560
Extr. Rate	0.793351	0.7940171	0.7957682	0.7943585	ERR	0.8044508
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	9283	9290	8650	8730		8495
MY Imports	1408	1408	1600	750		2155
MY Imp. from U.S.	162	162	200	50		260
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	10691	10698	10250	9480	0	10650
MY Exports	7	7	5	16		5
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Waste Dom.Consum.	10684	10691	10245	9384		10645
Total Dom. Consumption	10684	10691	10245	9384	0	10645
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	10691	10698	10250	9400	0	10650
Calendar Year Imports		4072		508		
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.		872		112		
Calendar Year Exports		18		4		
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.						

Table 10. Rapeseed Meal: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Rapeseed Meal					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	9634	9633	10400	11670	0	10500
Extr. Rate	0.613141	0.6154884	0.6149038	0.6148243	ERR	0.617619
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	5907	5929	6395	7175		6485
MY Imports	28	28	15	20		15
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	5935	5957	6410	7195	0	6500
MY Exports	158	158	170	350		175
MY Exp. to the EC	0	27	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	3907	3256	4340	3740		4050
Food Use Dom. Consump.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	1870	2543	1900	3105		2275
Total Dom. Consumption	5777	5799	6240	6845	0	6325
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	5935	5957	6410	7195	0	6500
Calendar Year Imports		107		27		
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.		0		0		
Calendar Year Exports		7		209		
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	7	0	

Table 11. Fishmeal: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:	China, Peoples Republic of					
Commodity:	Fish Oil and Meal					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Catch for Reduction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Extr. Rate, 999.9999	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	520	520	520	550		550
MY Imports	579	579	650	600		650
MY Imp. from U.S.	55	55	45	60		65
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	1099	1099	1170	1150	0	1200
MY Exports	1	1	0	1	0	0
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	1098	1098	1170	1149		1200
Total Dom. Consumption	1098	1098	1170	1149	0	1200
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	1099	1099	1170	1150	0	1200
Calendar Year Imports	416	416	629	631		650
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	39	39	36	36		60
Calendar Year Exports	1	1	1	1		0
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 12. Peanut Meal: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Peanut Meal					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	4913	4913	4930	4800	0	5030
Extr. Rate, 999.9999	0.5322613	0.5322613	0.540568	0.54	ERR	0.5397614
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	2615	2615	2665	2592		2715
MY Imports	6	6	6	6		5
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	2621	2621	2671	2598	0	2720
MY Exports	2	2	3	2		5
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0		0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0		0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	0	0	0	0		0
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	2619	2619	2668	2596		2715
Total Dom. Consumption	2619	2619	2668	2596	0	2715
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	2621	2621	2671	2598	0	2720
Calendar Year Imports	57	57	6	6	0	5
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Year Exports	2	2	2	2	0	3
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 13. Cottonseed Meal: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Cottonseed Meal					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	6372	7170	6062	6099	0	5790
Extr. Rate	0.6214689	0.6206416	0.6205873	0.6205935	ERR	0.6200345
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	3960	4450	3762	3785	0	3590
MY Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	3960	4450	3762	3785	0	3590
MY Exports	75	75	50	75	0	60
MY Exp. to the EC	0		0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	2720	3060	2598	2560	0	2471
Food Use Dom. Consump.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	1165	1315	1114	1150	0	1059
Total Dom. Consumption	3885	4375	3712	3710	0	3530
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	3960	4450	3762	3785	0	3590
Calendar Year Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Year Exports	53	53	91	91	0	40
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 14. Sunflowerseed Meal: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Sunflowerseed Meal					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	333	440	551	790	0	990
Extr. Rate	0.5885886	0.5818182	0.615245	0.5822785	ERR	0.5808081
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	196	256	339	460	0	575
MY Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	196	256	339	460	0	575
MY Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	40	44	69	78	0	98
Food Use Dom. Consump.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	156	212	270	382	0	477
Total Dom. Consumption	196	256	339	460	0	575
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	196	256	339	460	0	575
Calendar Year Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Year Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Oils

Table 15. Soybean Oil: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Soybean Oil					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	11701	11700	10870	10990	0	10560
Extr. Rate	0.166567	0.1632479	0.1591536	0.1648772	ERR	0.1652462
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	1949	1910	1730	1812	0	1745
MY Imports	980	980	1000	1000	0	1400
MY Imp. from U.S.	408	408	420	233	0	250
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	2929	2890	2730	2812	0	3145
MY Exports	45	45	35	35	0	40
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	2884	2845	2695	2777	0	3105
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	2884	2845	2695	2777	0	3105
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	2929	2890	2730	2812	0	3145
Calendar Year Imports		1000		708		
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.		315		303		
Calendar Year Exports		80		43		
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 16. Rapeseed Oil: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Rapeseed Oil					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	9634	9633	10400	11670	0	10500
Extr. Rate	0.3368279	0.3477629	0.3351923	0.3534704	ERR	0.3566667
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	3245	3350	3486	4125	0	3745
MY Imports	161	153	150	80	0	135
MY Imp. from U.S.	18	18	20	2	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	89	84	90	60	0	75
TOTAL SUPPLY	3406	3503	3636	4205	0	3880
MY Exports	23	19	25	25	0	20
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	3383	3484	3611	4180	0	3860
Feed Waste Dom.Consum.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	3383	3484	3611	4180	0	3860
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	3406	3503	3636	4205	0	3880
Calendar Year Imports		435		81		
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.		13		16		
Calendar Year Exports		41		20		
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 17. Palm Oil: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Palm Oil					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	0	0	0	0	0	0
Extr. Rate, 999.9999	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports	1350	1350	1450	1300		1500
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	1350	1350	1450	1300	0	1500
MY Exports	2	1	10	0	0	0
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	1348	1349	1440	1300	0	1500
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	1348	1349	1440	1300	0	1500
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	1350	1350	1450	1300	0	1500
Calendar Year Imports	1400	1400	1237	1300	0	1200
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Year Exports	20	20	0	0	0	0
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 18. Peanut Oil: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Peanut Oil					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	4913	4913	4930	4800	0	5030
Extr. Rate, 999.9999	0.449827	0.449827	0.4503043	0.45	ERR	0.4502982
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	2210	2210	2220	2160		2265
MY Imports	7	7	19	16		18
MY Imp. from U.S.	4	4	11	9		12
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	2217	2217	2239	2176	0	2283
MY Exports	12	12	10	12		12
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	2205	2205	2229	2164		2271
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	2205	2205	2229	2164	0	2271
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	2217	2217	2239	2176	0	2283
Calendar Year Imports		14		16		16
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.		7		9		10
Calendar Year Exports		6		12		12
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 19. Cottonseed Oil: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Cottonseed Oil					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	6372	7170	6062	6099	0	5790
Extr. Rate	0.1694915	0.1698745	0.1692511	0.1697	ERR	0.1699482
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	1080	1218	1026	1035	0	984
MY Imports	0	0	1	0	0	0
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	1080	1218	1027	1035	0	984
MY Exports	1	1	1	0	0	0
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	1079	1217	1026	1035	0	984
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	1079	1217	1026	1035	0	984
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	1080	1218	1027	1035	0	984
Calendar Year Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Year Exports	1	1	0	0	0	0
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 20. Sunflowerseed Oil: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Sunflowerseed Oil					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	333	440	551	790	0	990
Extr. Rate	0.2102102	0.2090909	0.2323049	0.2278481	ERR	0.2373737
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	70	92	128	180	0	235
MY Imports	1	1	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	71	93	128	180	0	235
MY Exports	0	0	0	0	0	5
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	71	93	128	180	0	230
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	71	93	128	180	0	230
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	71	93	128	180	0	235
Calendar Year Imports	1	1	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Year Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 21. Coconut Oil: Production, Supply and Distribution

PSD Table						
Country:						
Commodity:	Coconut Oil					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		10/1998		10/1999		10/2000
Crush	0	0	0	0	0	0
Extr. Rate	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR	ERR
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports	60	57	50	50	0	60
MY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imp. from the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	60	57	50	50	0	60
MY Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Exp. to the EC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Dom. Consum	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Use Dom. Consump.	60	57	50	50	0	60
Feed Waste Dom. Consum.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	60	57	50	50	0	60
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	60	57	50	50	0	60
Calendar Year Imports	65	65	33	33	0	50
Calendar Yr Imp. U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Year Exports	0	3	0	0	0	0
Calndr Yr Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Taxes and Duties

Table 22. Import Taxes and Duties

China's Oilseeds and Oilseed Products Tariffs as of January 1, 2000				
HS Code	Description	In Quota Duty (%)	Out of Quota MFN (%)	VAT* (%)
12010091	Yellow soybean	3	114	13
12010092	Black soybean	3	114	13
12010093	Green soybean	3	114	13
12010099	Other soybean	3	114	13
12050090	Rapeseed, other	12	40	13
20081110	Peanut kernels, in airtight containers		30	17
20081120	Roasted peanuts		30	17
20081130	Peanut butter		30	17
20081190	Other processed peanuts		30	17
12072090	Other cottonseed		15	13
12060090	Other sunflower seeds		15	13
15071000	Crude soy oil	13	121.6	13
15079000	Other soy oil	13	121.6	13
15141000	Crude rapeseed oil	20	100	13
15149000	Other rapeseed oil	20	100	13
15081000	Crude peanut oil	9.7	75	13
15089000	Other peanut oil	9.7	75	13
151221000	Crude cottonseed oil		35	13
151229000	Other cottonseed oil		35	13
15121100	Crude sunflower seed oil	40	91.2	13
15121900	Other sunflower seed oil	40	91.2	13
15131100	Crude coconut oil		20	17
15131900	Other coconut oil		20	17
15111000	Palm oil, crude	9	30	13
15119000	Palm oil, refined	10	30	13
23040010	Soy oil cake		5	0
23040090	Soy meal		5	13
23025000	Legume sweepings		5	NA
12081000	Soyflour	9	40	17
23064000	Rapeseed meal		5	0
23050000	Peanut meal		5	0
23061000	Cottonseed meal		5	0
23063000	Sunflower seed meal		5	0
23012010	Fish meal		3	0
*Oilseeds for planting are duty free				

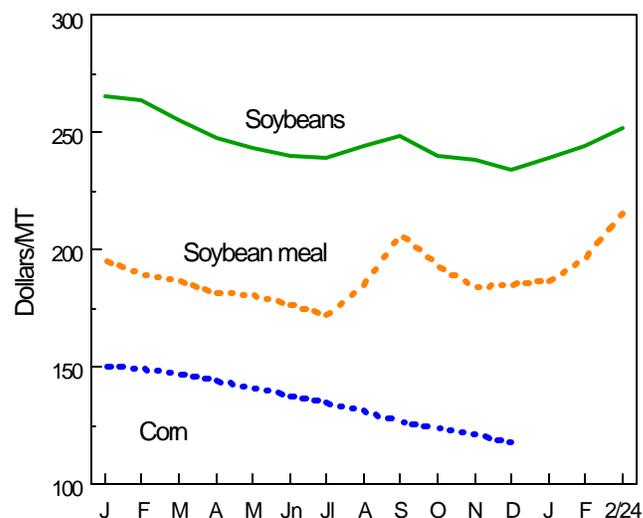
Narrative on Supply, Demand, Policy and Marketing

Soybeans and Products

Production

A sharp drop in soybean prices in late 1998 caused farmers to reduce soybean planted area by roughly 8 percent in MY 99 compared to MY 98. Drought and early frost in the main producing areas in Northeast China added to the problem, and soybean production is estimated to have fallen from over 15 MMT in MY 98 to 13.9 MMT in MY 99. This number may climb later in the year, as the largest producer, Heilongjiang province, habitually understates the size of its crop. The early frost has also caused major quality problems for this year's crop, which includes a very high percentage of green soybeans, with an adverse effect on both oil content and meal quality. Planted area is expected to increase in MY 00, as corn and cotton prices are now falling even more rapidly than soybean prices. Corn prices fell an estimated 22 percent nationwide during MY 99, while soybean prices fell by only 12 percent during the same period. The Chinese government has also announced a campaign to encourage farmers to plant soybeans instead of corn in an effort to reduce the government's losses from corn price supports. February price gains for soybean meal also bode well for soybean prices in the coming year. Official estimates for the MY 98 crop were raised repeatedly throughout the year, finally reaching a level of over 15 MMT, compared to initial estimates of 13.5 MMT. National Statistical Bureau (NSB) figures indicate that damage to crops in Northeast China was more than offset by massive production gains in other regions.

China Soybeans, Soybean Meal and Corn Prices
Jan., 1998 - Feb. 2000



Consumption

Overall soybean consumption is forecast to fall in MY 99, as record imports are insufficient to offset the weak domestic crop. The drop in consumption also reflects a switch by crushers from soybeans to rapeseed, in order to take advantage of the high oil prices that prevailed in early 1999. This situation may change during the second half of MY 99. Feed industry contacts indicate that demand for soybean meal is starting to grow. This has been underscored by the sharp jump in soybean prices during late February, 2000. Meanwhile, declining soybean crush during the first quarter of MY 99 has reduced the amount of soymeal available. Restoration of the 13% VAT on imported soymeal has also kept imports to a minimum. The end result is likely to be improved soymeal prices and increased interest in importing soybeans over rapeseed. Consumption of soybeans is likely to decline further in MY 00 as increased imports of oil and meal reduce demand for imported oilseeds.

When it goes into effect, WTO accession should have a profound impact on China's long-ailing crushers, resulting in a general reorganization of the industry. In truth, China does not suffer from surplus crushing capacity, but from a surplus

of small and medium sized crushers with low profit margins. Large-scale, modern crushers continue to turn profits, and many are pursuing aggressive expansion strategies. Under WTO, the consolidation of the industry will accelerate, as low oil prices drive more small crushers out of business and the larger plants expand to fill the gap, particularly in coastal regions. Further inland, high shipping costs may provide some protection for the smaller plants, but it is probably only a matter of time before they, too, either modernize and expand, or go out of business.

This may eventually affect oilseed production. According to industry sources, domestic rapeseed is crushed primarily by smaller plants, while large plants crush imported seed. If oilseed imports fall under the influence of the WTO, large plants will find themselves crushing more domestic rapeseed, giving them an incentive to demand, and pay for, improved quality rapeseed. The primary beneficiaries of the increased oil quotas, apart from consumers and, indirectly, the livestock industry, will be oil refiners. Refiners have complained that the current system leaves them short of raw material, despite strong demand for oil. They also have a strong preference for imported oil, which costs substantially less to process due to fewer impurities and lower oxidation levels.

Food use of soybeans is expected to rise during MY 98 and 99, due in part to the regional structure of soybean production. In both years, soybean crops in Northeast China suffered from weather-related problems, while soybean crops in other areas fared better. Food use of soybeans in these areas approaches 50-60 percent, and is done on a small-scale, compared to the Northeast, where soybeans are produced on a large scale, primarily for crushing. Long term non-crushing use of soybeans will continue to grow, as the Chinese government is promoting food use and the development of other processed soybean products. A number of large crushing mills are also reported to be investing in production of value-added products such as lecithin.

Stocks

Soybean stocks remain high, but appear to have fallen. [Stock numbers are considered a state secret in China, making reliable estimates difficult. As a result, stocks are not reflected in the PS&D tables for China]. Most sources estimate that stocks had reached 3 to 4 MMT by the end of MY 98. By contrast, sources now estimate that stocks are between 2.5 to 3 MMT. The reduction in stocks was made possible by a brief uptick in prices in early fall that allowed provincial grain bureaus to sell off a portion of their stocks. The government has also sharply reduced purchases of soybeans under the quota system, which has prevented new stocks from accumulating. Trade sources believe that on-farm stocks are extremely low at present, due to the small domestic crop.

Trade

Over the past two years, trade in soybean products has shifted heavily in favor of soybeans, though WTO accession may reverse the trend in MY 00. Soybean imports for MY 99 are forecast at 4.3 MMT. Given the recent round of import sales, this is a conservative estimate, and the final number could easily exceed this level. The United States remains the dominant supplier, though Argentine beans are rapidly gaining favor among crushers due to their yellow color and high oil content. In general, crushers favor imported beans for their high oil content and consistent quality, though they frequently complain about high foreign matter. Between MY 96 and MY 98, Argentina's market share rose from 1.5 percent to 22 percent, placing it on par with Brazil, and likely to pass Brazil in MY 99. Imports are forecast to fall sharply in MY 00, as China's accession to the WTO leads to increased imports of processed products (see the section on oil imports).

In contrast to soybeans, soybean meal imports are forecast to fall to 750 TMT in MY 99, 53 percent of last year's level, and a bare fraction of the 3 MMT imported in MY 97. This is the result of weak demand from the livestock sector and excessive imports in MY 98, as well as the 13 percent VAT on imported soybean meal that went into effect in July, 1999. Though the VAT technically applies equally to domestic and imported meal, industry sources claim that the rules on domestic meal do not make it clear as to who actually pays the VAT. This leaves ample room for tax evasion, and anecdotal evidence indicates that the VAT on domestic meal is frequently not paid. For MY 00, Imports are forecast to jump to 2.15 MMT due to reduced crush of imported oilseeds and growing demand from the livestock industry. Though this is a huge increase over MY 99, it is far short of imports levels in 1996 and 1997 (over 3 MMT).

China's exports of soybeans remain relatively small, at an estimated 180 TMT in MY 99. Over 70 percent of MY 98 exports went to Japan, where the high protein content of Chinese soybeans makes them useful in manufacturing food products. There is growing interest in marketing organic products overseas, and some producers and exporters have expressed interest in taking advantage of the current GMO controversy to increase China's market share in Japan. This tactic could backfire, however, as China is known to feed cottonseed meal from GMO cotton to livestock, and is interested in increasing sales of livestock products to Japan and the EU.

WTO entry will have a major impact on oil imports. At present, soybean oil imports remain relatively steady, governed by a quota system that restricts imports of vegetable oil. The quota is usually around 2.2 MMT, split between palm oil and other vegetable oils. As last year proved however, issuance of the quota does not follow any fixed schedule, and can be delayed for various reasons. Refiners claim that this system results in considerable unmet demand, and that consumption of vegetable oil would be higher without the quota system. The system itself is highly opaque. According to industry sources, the State Development and Planning Commission calculates quotas based on its own estimate of the difference between supply and demand, then issues quotas to the provincial Development and Planning Commissions, which then issue it to companies within the province. The process by which these calculations are made is not public. This results in some anomalies. For example, in 1998 10,000 MT of quota was issued to a landlocked province that is a net vegoil exporter. This quota went unused.

This is set to change under the WTO. First, the agreement sets a tariff rate quota during the first year of accession of 1.7 MMT for soybean oil alone. This compares with 1.2 MMT (officially) for 1999 for all vegetable oils other than palm oil. (Additional quotas for canola oil have already been negotiated, and palm oil quotas have yet to be determined). The quota is scheduled to rise, reaching 3.26 MMT in 2005, after which the quota will be phased out altogether. In-quota duty rates are 9 percent, while out-of-quota duties will fall from 74 percent to 20 percent by 2005. Second, the system for administering tariff-rate quotas will also change. Under the agreement, China has agreed to set aside 50 percent of the quota for non-state-trading enterprises, growing to 90 percent by 2005. More important, unused TRQs are redistributed to non-state-trading enterprises, thus helping to guarantee that TRQs are fully utilized.

Policy

WTO will limit China's ability to take actions that damage trade in soybeans and soybean oil and meal. China has agreed to bind tariff rates for soybeans at the current level of 3 percent, thus closing out the possibility of a quota on soybeans. The Chinese government has also agreed to follow the terms of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, which will require that all animal and plant health import requirements be based on sound science. Threats to trade will continue to exist even after China accedes to the WTO. VAT taxes, such as the one that was recently levied on soymeal (mentioned above in the section on consumption) are one example. At present

however, the greatest concern is over genetically modified soybeans. The issue is extremely complex. Though China as a high-cost producer has a natural interest in GMOs, the government is under considerable pressure to provide protection for domestic producers. Health and environmental officials have also expressed concerns, and are currently working with the U.S. government to learn more about U.S. methods for testing and approving GMOs. In the meantime, the National People's Congress is reportedly considering legislation to require labeling for imported GMOs. Any premature action on this issue could come back to haunt them, however, as a considerable amount of GMO cotton is already being produced in China. Cottonseed meal from this GMO cotton is routinely used in animal feed. China is also reportedly developing genetically modified corn, tomatoes, pimentos and other crops.

Rapeseed and Products

MY 1999 has proved to be a banner year for rapeseed. Production hit an estimated 9.7 MMT, the second highest level on record. Most sources estimate that current planted area is up by another 12 percent to an estimated 7.8 million hectares. Weather conditions have been unusually cold in some areas including Hubei and Jiangsu, and the condition of rapeseed plants in these areas is not as good as last year. Rapeseed in other provinces is reported to be in average condition. The weather in the coming weeks will be critical to the harvest. If it holds, the MY 00 rapeseed crop could set a new record, despite lower yields than last year. Should this happen, at least one industry source believes that rapeseed prices may fall below soybean prices. Increased production is being driven by two forces. First, high prices for vegetable oil as compared to oilmeal have made the crushing of rapeseed more profitable compared to soybeans. Second, the government's efforts to restructure agricultural production have favored production of rapeseed. Sharp reductions in prices for winter wheat and early rice have left farmers looking for alternative cash crops, and many have switched to rapeseed, due to its value as a winter crop. Production is likely to continue growing in the near future, albeit at a slower pace.

China is continuing to upgrade rapeseed quality and planting larger amounts of 'double-low' rapeseed, which can be used in animal feed in larger concentrations than traditional rapeseed. The upgrade is taking longer than might be expected, because no formal system of incentives for producing double-low rapeseed exist. Interviews with crush mills, however, indicate that some mills are testing and offering higher prices on their own initiative. Though no comprehensive statistics exist on how much double-low is being planted, the existing statistics indicate that it now accounts for nearly half of domestic production in many areas.

Rapeseed imports are on schedule to hit record levels for the third year in a row, at a forecast total of 3.1 MMT for MY 99. First quarter data for MY 99 indicates that imports could exceed this amount, but the recent jump in soybean prices and heavy sales of U.S. soybeans in February indicate that imports are likely to shift in favor of soybeans. A record domestic crop in MY 00 might also dampen crushers' enthusiasm for imported rapeseed, though crushers are pleased with the high quality of imported rapeseed. Imports of Canadian rapeseed have fallen compared to Europe and Australia. Refiners have noted that this year's rapeseed from Canada has a high chlorophyll content, and the oil requires additional processing to remove the green color.

The pattern of use for rapeseed meal is changing. Massive crush of imported rapeseed has left China with large supplies of high-quality rapemeal. Much of this has found its way into export markets, with exports jumping to 183 TMT in the first quarter of MY 99, as compared to 158 TMT for all of MY 98. Interviews with traders indicate that most of the exports are of feed-quality meal produced by crushing imported rapeseed. Separate crushing seasons for imported and domestic rapeseed makes it fairly easy to separate the two. South Korea has been the primary

destination for these exports, but most recently the EU has also purchased large quantities of Chinese rapemeal. Domestic feed use of rapemeal is on the rise as well, driven by increased crush of domestic double-low rapeseed, increased crush of imported rapeseed, and increasingly tight soymeal supplies. Declining imports of rapeseed will likely cause rapemeal exports to fall during MY 00, but increased feed use of domestic meal is a long-term trend due to the increased production of double-low rapeseed.

Other Oilseeds and Products

Peanuts and Products

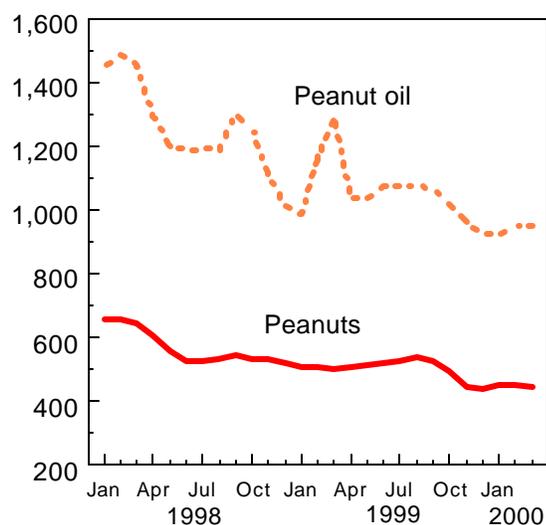
Official information on the MY 99 peanut crop remains unclear, but total planted area is believed to have risen by about 6 percent, while production increased by 3 percent. Area is forecast to expand by another 5 percent in MY 00, driven by the agricultural reforms that are encouraging farmers to diversify away from corn, wheat and cotton, and into other cash crops. Overall yields fell during MY 99, as a drought hit major producing areas in Shandong and Hebei, causing yields in these provinces to fall by an estimated 9.7% and up to 20%, respectively. Other provinces such as Henan and Anhui reaped bumper crops, however, helping to offset the decline in drought-stricken areas. Increases in planted area have occurred despite a constant decline in prices over the past two years. Since January, 1998, wholesale peanut prices have fallen by roughly 32%. Nonetheless, high yields and low input costs make planting peanuts profitable by comparison to crops such as corn and cotton, which have suffered even sharper price declines (roughly 30% each during the past year alone), and which have higher input costs. Over the long term, peanut production is likely to stabilize at current levels.

Despite low prices for peanuts, peanut crush is forecast to decline in MY 99. Falling peanut oil prices have slashed crushing margins for peanuts, and government sources report that many plants have either shut down or are operating at a fraction of normal capacity. This trend may reverse itself if peanut prices continue to fall. Food use is expected to continue growing, as peanuts are increasingly popular as ingredients in snack foods. Low prices have also allowed exports to jump. Based on first quarter trade data, exports may be on schedule to hit 600 TMT in MY 99. In addition to low prices, partial recovery in Asian markets has also helped support exports. The fastest growth appears to be in shelled peanuts and peanut butter. In late 1999, the Spanish government removed special aflatoxin inspection requirements for Chinese peanuts, finding that Chinese peanuts are now within EU standards. The EU is the largest market for Chinese peanuts.

Fishmeal

Fishmeal production is forecast to grow somewhat during MY 99, but the potential for long-term expansion is limited by the need to allow coastal fisheries to recover. The quality of domestic fishmeal has improved, though feed millers still prefer imported meal. Imports have started to recover, but are not likely to reach the 1.1 MMT levels seen in 1996, due to a stronger domestic industry and increased reliance on soybean meal. According to feed industry sources, domestic meal is proving to be relatively price competitive with South American meal, leaving only the

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narrowest of margins for traders seeking to import fishmeal. Consumption is forecast to rise slightly, partly due to improved prospects for the livestock industry, and partly due to increased feed use of rapemeal. According to industry sources, feedmills using rapemeal tend to use more fishmeal as well. Though feed use of rapemeal, in absolute terms, is forecast to fall in MY 00, greater demand for protein meal in general should help support a slight increase in imports.

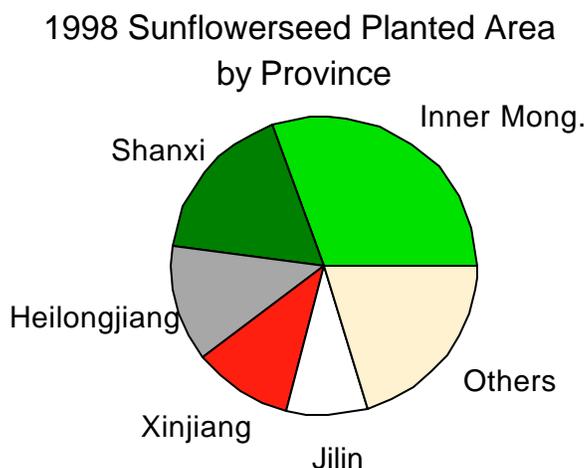
Sunflowerseed

Official data on sunflowerseed production is inconsistent, and even official sources appear to conflict. MY 98 area has been revised based on provincial data, though production for that year is based on private industry estimates. According to Ministry of Agriculture sources, sunflowerseed planted area increased by roughly 28 percent in MY 99. This, combined with a recovery in yields after the drought in MY 97, is estimated to have brought about a 74 percent increase in production. Area is forecast to grow in MY 00, as farmers continue to diversify away from crops such as corn. The establishment of new sunflowerseed oil crushing plants in major producing areas should help to maintain demand for high-oil sunflowerseeds for crushing. The government of Inner Mongolia is encouraging farmers to plant high-oil varieties, and crushers are paying higher prices for the improved oil content. Oil yields are likely to improve over time as the new varieties become more common, and as newer, more efficient crushers go online. Sunflowerseed oil is marketed to Chinese consumers as a health food, and some producers have ambitious plans for marketing their products abroad in this role.

Food consumption of sunflowerseeds is also rising quickly. Sunflowerseeds are extremely popular as a snack food, and are often served in restaurants as an appetizer. Chinese producers have shown little interest in developing improved confectionary sunflowerseeds, even though food use accounts for roughly half of consumption. This indicates that the market is far from being saturated. U.S. exports of confectionary sunflowerseeds to China have grown rapidly in recent years, and the National Sunflowerseed Association is active in this market. The U.S. is the predominant supplier of sunflowerseeds to China, due to their reputation for high quality.

Cottonseed

Though cottonseed provides a significant source of oil and meal in China, its fortunes are tied to those of the cotton fiber industry, which is facing hard times. Cotton planted area fell by an estimated 8.4 percent in 1999, and the Chinese government has declared its intention to reduce area even further in 2000. Cotton prices have fallen by roughly 30 percent compared to last year. Cottonseed processing is controlled by the state-owned Cotton and Jute Corporation, which has general responsibility for procurement and distribution of cotton fiber.



Palm Oil

Prior to 1998, smuggling of palm oil allowed large quantities of palm oil to enter the country outside of the quota system. Since then, imports have largely been limited to the levels permitted by the government's oil import quotas. Oil refiners insist that this quota is much too small to meet the rapidly growing demand for palm oil, and refineries are facing a shortage of raw materials. The single most important factor affecting MY 00 imports remains undetermined: the size of the palm oil quotas that will take effect under WTO. Palm oil exporters are likely to press for higher quotas, but the Chinese government sources claim that higher quotas are unnecessary not needed. Palm oil is used primarily in food processing, particularly in the production of instant noodles and cookies.